(d) Contract workers are covered in the definition of "employee" under the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1976 and the relevant provisions of the Act apply to these workers.

Provident fund to beedi workers

1421. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States which have implemented the decision as per the Supreme Court judgement regarding coverage of beedi industry under the Employees Provident Fund Act as on date;

(b) what steps Government propose to take for the speedy implementation of the said judgement;

(c) what is the number of beedi workers in the beedi industry who have been issued Identity Cards as on date;

(d) whether it is a fact that employers are not issuing Identity Cards to beedi workers so as to avoid the application of labour laws and other relevant laws; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The EPF Act is administered by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. The enforcement of the Supreme Court judgement relating to coverage of beedi industry under the EPF Act is, therefore, the responsibility of the Board. The EPF athorities are accordingly taking necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the EPF Act and the Schemes framed thereunder for coverage of beedi industry in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) to (e) There is no provision in the EPF Act for issue of identity cards. Rule 41 of the Beedi Welfare Fund Rules, 1978, however, provides for issue of identity cards to beedi workers by their employers. The employers have, however, issued very few identity cards over the years. The Government is taking steps to enforce this requirement.

Bogus garment exporters

1422. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the "Deccan Herald" of the 4th September, 1986 captioned "70 per cent garment exporters firms are bogus";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government and approved garment exporters thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that even Export Commissioner has expressed the same viewpoint;

(d) whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter; if so, what are the details of the inquiry and action taken on that basis;

(e) how many such bogus garment exporters have been taken to task and the names and details of such bogus exporters; and

(f) what concrete steps have been taken to end such malpractices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) he Export Commissioner while discussing the elements of duty free import scheme had referred to the problem of associate firms in the garment sector. The Government was aware of the problem of associate

firms and had already taken measures to discourage them by insisting on affidavits under the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy. The Government, has also recently stipulated that a firm should be an income tax assessee to be eligibile to apply for entitlements under the small order system.

State terrorism

1423. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what initiatives India took in the NAM Summit at Harare to curb the State terrorism in Sri Lanka; and

(b) how many nations extended their support to our initiatives against State terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) India had taken the initiative for addressing the question of international terrorism at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Countries in New Delhi in April, 1986 which included a section on this subject in the Political Declaration. The relevant section in the Political Declaration of the Harare Summit adopted by consensus, is based on the text adopted at Delhi.

Soviet Proposal on the Verification of Military Activities from Air

1424. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that U.S. Government has welcomed the Soviet proposal regarding the verification of military activities from air as a significant step towards a disarmament agreement between big powers;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment of the prospects with regard to U.S. Soviet talks on disarmament including the aforesaid one; and

(c) what is Government's assessment as to how far that two big powers are now closer to an agreement on the disarmament issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) At their recent meeting at Reykjavik in Iceland the United States President and the Soviet General Secretary are reported to have been very close to an agreement on a package of arms limitation proposals. The United States and Soviet Governments are pursuing their exchanges and Government earnestly hope that these exchanges will lead to a comprehensive agreement.

Diplomatic Assignments for IAS Officers.

1425. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total numbers of IAS officers with their names and designations who have been given diplomatic assignments during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any fixed percentage and criteria for appointment of IAS officers as Ambassadors and for other diplomatic assignments; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The number of IAS officers who have been given diplomatic assignment during the last three years is sixteen. Their names and designations are enclosed. (*See* Statement below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, Sir.